

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EA-06 FRB-03 IO-10 NEA-10

OPIC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /110 W

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R 241612Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,GW, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT: ECONOMIC FOCUS

REF: A. PARIS 18849; B. BONN 11910; C. LUXEMBOURG 566

1. IN COURSE BRIEF PREVIEW FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT JULY 25-26, QUAI DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PLAISANT CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD FRENCH ASSUMPTION THAT FOCUS OF GISCARD-SCHMIDT CONVERSATIONS WILL BE ON EUROPE'S AILING ECONOMIC SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH PRESS HAS WIDELY REPORTED ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH LABOR LEADERS AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION ON PRESENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION WHICH GOF HAS JUST COMPLETED. THEIR DARK CONCLUSIONS AND OECD FORECAST OF LESS THAN TWO PERCENT GROWTH FOR FRANCE FOR NEXT 18 MONTHS IS BEING FOLLOWED THIS WEEK BY A "WEEK OF REFLECTION" AT THE ELYSEE ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. IN PREPARATION FOR THE FRANCO-CONFIDENTIAL

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GERMAN SUMMIT AND JULY 29 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING.

2. PURSUING THEMES ALREADY BROACHED AT RECENT EC COUNCIL MEETING, GISCARD AND SCHMIDT ARE THEREFORE EXPECTED TO SPEND BULK OF THEIR TIME REVIEWING FRENCH-GERMAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN BROADER EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONTEXT. PLAISANT ASSUMED THAT TALKS WOULD ALSO TOUCH ON RELATED IMPLICATIONS FRENCH REENTRY OF SNAKE AND ENERGY MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE FRANKLY ADMITTED THAT QUAI HAD ONLY MARGINAL INFLUENCE ON WHAT GISCARD WOULD DISCUSS, PARTICULARLY DURING SEVERAL HOURS OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

3. ON POLITICAL SIDE, PLAISANT THOUGHT MAJOR SUBJECT WOULD BE PORTUGAL. BESIDES GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON, QUAI EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE REVIEW OF MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES; OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE; AND POSSIBLY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CSCE PROCESS FOR FUTURE SOVIET POLICY WITH RESPECT TO WESTERN EUROPE, ABOUT WHICH THE FRG NOW SEEMS MORE CONCERNED THAN THE FRENCH. PLAISANT FURTHER CONFIRMED THAT PLUTON WAS NOT ON THE OFFICIAL AGENDA, PARTICULARLY SINCE DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL NOT ATTEND. PLAISANT ADDED THAT THIS CONSTITUTED NO ASSURANCES, HOWEVER, THAT ISSUE WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT UP DURING LONG TETE-A-TETE, EITHER BY GISCARD OR BY SCHMIDT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS19199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-1099
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawng.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 18849, 75 BONN 11910, 75 LUXEMBOURG 566
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT: ECONOMIC FOCUS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY), (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006